

29. (Amended) A method of treating or preventing a tumor necrosis factor related disease in a host in need thereof comprising administering to the host [an effective] a TNF-inhibiting amount of a receptor molecule according to Claim 1. [which binds to tumor necrosis factor, the receptor comprising all or a functional portion of the extracellular domain of two or more tumor necrosis factor receptors linked via one or more polypeptide linkers.]

Please add the following claims:

24. Isolated DNA encoding a receptor molecule according to Claim 2.
25. Isolated DNA encoding a receptor molecule according to Claim 3.
26. Isolated DNA encoding a receptor molecule according to Claim 6.

REMARKS

Claims 4, 5, 7, 9-13, and 18 have been canceled and Claims 24-26 have been added.

Claim 1 has been amended in order to define precisely the chemical nature of the linkage between extracellular domains of tumor necrosis factor receptors and the polypeptide linker, the chemical nature being a peptide bond (support may be found in the Specification on page 8, lines 29-31). Claim 2 has been amended to specifically point out that it is the extracellular domains of the tumor necrosis factor receptor described in the claim that are being utilized in the instant invention (Specification, page 6, lines 8-10). Claim 6 has been amended such that the antecedent basis for the claim is found in Claim 2 (Specification, page 6, line 14). Claim 8 has been amended in order to specify that the isolated DNA is based upon the subject matter of Claim 1 (Specification, pages 2-3, lines 32-2 and page 5, lines 26-30). Claim 15 has been amended such that precise and accurate terminology is employed as to provide overall consistency throughout the claim. Also, the stated preamble of Claim 15 can now be effectuated by the process steps defined in the claim (Specification, page 2, lines 20-23 and page 8-9, lines 32-8). Claim 16 has been amended in order to provide proper sequence of steps for vector construction and subsequent expression. Additionally, amended Claim 16 provides a functional association between the elements stated therein (Specification, page 2, lines 24-26, 28-31 and page 9, lines

8-13). Claim 17 has been amended in order to define the subject matter of the claim in accordance with base Claim 1 (Specification, page 3, lines 23-26 and page 9, lines 14-20). Claims 19 and 20 have been amended in order to clearly indicate that which needs to be administered in order to produce the desired effect articulated in the respective claims (Specification, pages 3-4, lines 27-2 and pages 9-10, lines 34-4, 17-21). Claim 24 concerns the isolation of DNA encoding the subject matter of Claim 2 (Specification, pages 2-3, lines 32-2 and page 5, lines 26-30, in conjunction with page 2, lines 26-28 and page 6, lines 8-10). Claim 25 concerns the isolation of DNA encoding the subject matter of Claim 3 (Specification, page 2-3, lines 32-2 and page 5, lines 26-30, in conjunction with page 2, lines 28-31 and page 8, lines 3-18 and 27-29). Claim 26 concerns the isolation of DNA encoding the subject matter in Claim 6 (Specification, pages 2-3, lines 32-3 and page 5, lines 26-30, in conjunction with page 6, line 14).

The amended claims serve to further define that which the Applicants believe to be their invention. No new matter has been introduced as a result of amending Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 15, 16, 17, 19, and 20 or by the addition of newly presented Claims 24-26.

Respectfully submitted,

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